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REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 and 3-26 are pending in the application. Of these, claims 1 and 3 are being amended, and claims 20-26 are being added. Claim 2 is being canceled. The amendments are fully supported by the originally filed specification and original claims and add no new matter. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the present case is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claim 9-19.

Applicants further appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2-7 would be allowable if re-written in independent form, and including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is being re-written to incorporate the limitations of objected to claim 2, and thus this claim and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable. Also, objected to claims 6 and 7 are being re-written in independent form, and including all the limitations of their base claim, as claims 21 and 24, respectively. Accordingly, claims 21 and 24 and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable.

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Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of Claims 1 and 8

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,048,403 to Deaton et al. This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations objected to claim 2, as described above. Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, including claim 8, are believed to be allowable.

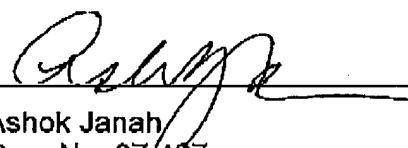
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CONCLUSION

The above-discussed amendments are believed to place the present application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
JANAH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Date: October 13, 2004

By: 
Ashok Janah
Reg. No. 37187

Please direct all telephone calls to: Ashok K. Janah at (415) 538-1555.

Please continue to send correspondence to:

Patent Department, M/S 2061
APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
P.O. Box 450A
Santa Clara, California 95052.